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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

OF PHILADELPHIA.

Vol. I. SEPTEMBER, 1841. No. 6.

STATED MEETING, September 7, 1841.

Vice President Morton in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO CABINET.

To the Mineralogical Cabinet.—Carbonate Lead, Washington mine, Davidson county, N. Carolina; Tetredymite, or Telluric Bismuth Glance, Scharnowitz, Hungary; and Titaniferous Iron. Received by the Curators in exchange.

Anthracite interstratified with charcoal, from Beaver Meadow, Pennsylvania.—Slate with sulphate of lime, Bear-gap.—Mineral charcoal with interspersed anthracite, from Beaver, Luzerne County.—Stigmaria ficoides, Bear-gap.—Anthracitized fossil wood, Nesquehoning.—Slate, from bottom of slope No. 5, Beaver Meadow. From Professor Johnson.

To the Cabinet of Shells.—Cypræa Tigris, C. Arabica, C. histrio, C. Lynx, Turbinella cornigera, Strombus lentiginosus, S. auris Dianæ, S. pugilis, S. gibberulus, Pterocera lambis, Terebra maculata, T. vittata, Oliva erythrostoma, O. ventricosa.—Buccinum papillosum, Murex trequeter, Ranella argus, Turbo argyrostomus, Cerithium obeliscus, Trochus californicus, Haliotis Cracherodii, Meleagrina margaritifera, Spondylus spathaliferus. Presented by Mr. Draper.

DONATIONS TO LIBRARY.

Laws of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, passed in the session of 1840. 8vo. Harrisburg, 1840. From Mr. Wm. S. Vaux. (This volume contains the act exempting the Academy from taxation.)

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS.—A letter was read from Francis Markoe, Jr. Esq. acknowledging the announcement of his election as a corresponding member of the Society.

Mr. S. S. Haldeman submited " Descriptions of two new Freshwater Shells."

Amnicola attenuata.—Shell very long and slender, with six obliquely revolving, very convex turns, separated by a deep suture ; aperture small, ovate, with the peritreme level and continuous, as in Cyclostoma. Length ⅓ inch. Hab. a spring in Montgomery Co. Virginia, connected with Roanoke river.

Obs.—Very like, but more slender than Cyclostoma lapidaria, Say ; which I refer to this genus, as well as C. Cincinnatiensis, Lea ; retaining for this species Mr. Anthony's specific name Sayana, under which appellation the shells were distributed by this gentleman. This substitution is necessary, because the previously described Paludina Cincinnatiensis, is an amnicola. Melania integra, Say, is an amnicola also.

Physa globosa.—Shell globose, translucent, spire very short and rounded ; aperture very wide, occupying considerably more than half the entire area of the shell ; fold well marked, whirls three. Length ⅛ inch. Hab. mouth of Nolachucky river, attached to submerged rocks, in the rapids.

Obs.—This species is a valuable acquisition to Malacology, as it enables us to place the genus Ancylus among the Limneans, where it has hitherto held but a doubtful place. Any one who has examined the animal of Ancylus, cannot have failed to observe its similarity to Planorbis; and some authors assert that it ascends to the surface of the water to breathe *air*. This I doubted, because the species with which I am familiar, inhabit the interior of bivalve shells, or the surface of stones in rapid water; whence it is impossible for them to rise to the surface, and regain their previous position. I hence infer that they breathe *water*, as well as the Physa above described, inhabiting as it does, the middle of a river, in rapids nearly two feet deep at low water, and without objects rising above the surface. It is highly probable that air-breathing Ancyli exist; and it is even possible that the same organ may be adapted to the respiration of both air and water.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS.—Professor Johnson offered some remarks on the specimens of Anthracite and Fossil charcoal presented by him this evening. These observations are necessarily reserved for a future number.

STATED MEETING, SEPTEMBER, 14, 1841.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO CABINET.

Collection of exotic Birds stuffed and mounted, presented by Dr. James A. M'Crea, viz.:

Oriolus melanocephalus; Alcedo ispida; Merops viridis, (2 specimens;) Psittacus Bengalensis; Fringilla Bengalensis; Alcedo Smyrnensis; Tanagra rubra; Muscicapa ruticella;